

## CLAIMS

1. A method for identifying and registering a vehicle, comprising:

receiving and storing vehicle identification and registration information in a remote control unit;

5       comparing the information stored in the remote control unit with data stored in the vehicle; and

displaying at least a portion of the vehicle identification and registration information on an electronic license plate.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said receiving includes downloading vehicle identification and registration information from an authorizing agency's database to a customer's personal computer.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said downloading includes transmitting the vehicle identification and registration information to the personal computer over the Internet.

4. A method according to claim 3 further including transmitting credit card information to the authorizing agency to pay a fee associated with receiving the vehicle identification and registration information.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said comparing includes transmitting the vehicle identification and registration information to the vehicle to replace the data stored in the vehicle if the vehicle identification and registration information is new.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said comparing includes unlocking at least one door in the vehicle if the vehicle identification and registration information matches the data stored in the vehicle.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said comparing includes unlocking an ignition system of the vehicle if the vehicle identification and registration information matches the data stored in the vehicle.

8. A method according to claim 5 further comprising updating the portion of the vehicle identification and registration information being displayed on the electronic license plate if the vehicle identification and registration information is new.

9. A vehicle identification and registration information, comprising:

a remote control unit for receiving and storing identification and registration information;

5 at least one computer on said vehicle for receiving the identification and registration information from said remote control unit and for storing the identification and registration information; and

an electronic license plate coupled to said computer for displaying at least a portion of the identification and registration information.

10. A system according to claim 9 wherein said remote control unit is an FOB.

11. A system according to claim 9 wherein said remote control unit is a smart card.

12. A system according to claim 9 further comprising an interface unit on the vehicle for communicating with said remote control unit.

13. A system according to claim 12 wherein said interface unit communicates with said remote control unit over wireless link.

14. A system according to claim 13 wherein said interface unit is a transponder.

15. A system according to claim 9 wherein said at least one computer includes a comparator for comparing vehicle identification and registration information being received from said remote control unit with that stored in said at least one computer for updating said at least one computer if the vehicle identification and registration information is new.  
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16. A system according to claim 10 further comprising a smart chip in said FOB.

17. A system according to claim 16 wherein said FOB is a key FOB.

18. A system according to claim 11 further comprising a smart chip in said smart card.

19. A system according to claim 9 further comprising:  
a vehicle identification number tag coupled to said vehicle; and  
a smart chip embedded in said vehicle identification number tag  
for storing vehicle identification and registration information.

20. A system according to claim 9 wherein said electronic license plate comprises:

- a light emitting diode back panel; and
- a liquid crystal display front panel.